MINUTES OF MEETING State Board of Education September 8-9, 2005

The September meeting of the Board of Education was held in the State Board Conference Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines. Board members Gene Vincent, Sally Frudden, Charlie Edwards, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Rosie Hussey, Wayne Kobberdahl, Greg McClain, Mary Jean Montgomery and Tara Richards were present. Also present were Department Director Judy Jeffrey and staff members Gail Sullivan, Carol Greta, Lee Tack, Pam Pfitzenmaier, Jeff Berger, Kathi Slaughter, Dee Gethmann, Beverly Bunker, Arlie Willems, Tom Cooley, Sharon Hawthorne, Kathy McKee, Roger Stirler, Ken McQuire, Tom Andersen, and Beverlee Adams. Also in attendance were Kay Forsythe and Connie Johnson, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency; Dwayne Ferguson and Robin Madison, Legislative Fiscal Agency; Tom Glenn, Linda Nelson, Brad Hudson, Iowa State Education Association; Jon Narcisse, State of Iowa Black Initiative; Dick Vande Kieft, Cedar Falls, Charla Schmid, Red Oak Community Schools, Margaret Buckton, Iowa Association of School Boards; Michael Helle, Knoxville Community Schools; Jon Ericson; Chris Green; Merrill Knight, Saydel Community Schools; Cal Woods and Luke Evans, Fox 17 News; Darwin Danielson, Radio Iowa; Gail Moorman Behrens and Janet Kehe. University of Upper Iowa. Troyce Fisher. Wallace Grant Project; Kris Bell, Office of the Governor, Shanell Wagler, Department of Management; Greg Robinson, Urbandale Community Schools; Ernest Schiller, Iowa Teacher of the Year; Todd Dorman, Lee Newspapers; Lynn Campbell, Des Moines Register, and Pat Curtis, WHO Radio.

President Vincent called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Mary Jean Montgomery to approve the agenda as written. The motion was approved unanimously. It was determined that persons requesting to speak to the athletic eligibility agenda item would be allowed to address the Board at approximately 1:45 p.m. Other public comments would be welcomed at the regularly scheduled public comment time.

Early Childhood Education - Empowerment

Dee Gethmann, Department of Education Consultant and Shanell Wagler, Facilitator, Department of Management was available for presentation of this agenda item.

Ms. Wagler indicated that empowerment legislation had passed in 1998 to create state and local partnerships. The lowa Empowerment Board established a process to empower individuals and their communities to achieve desired results to improve the quality of life for children ages birth – 5 years and their families. She felt the legislation was innovative in bringing all partners to the table to build an early care, health and education system to allow state and communities to work together.

Dee Gethmann, Consultant, Early Childhood Development reviewed the community empowerment structure. She identified the following as the purpose of community empowerment:

- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of early care, education, health and human services programs
- Promote collaboration among state and local levels
- Empower local citizens to lead collaborative efforts
- Improve results for families with young children, birth through age 5

Gethmann addressed the role of the state empowerment team. She indicated they would provide assistance and support community empowerment areas by 1) disseminating information statewide; 2) promoting community capacity and leadership; 3) providing guidance on system building and 4) providing connections or linkages. Support for low-income families would be available through various programs in the local community empowerment areas.

Mary Jean Montgomery stated her concern for the equality throughout the programs and Greg McClain asked about available data.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

No comments for this portion of the agenda.

Director Report

Director Judy Jeffrey reported on the following items:

- Release of test results
- Release of the NCLB Report Card
- Schools in Need of Assistance List
- Director visiting all community colleges
- Bullying/Harassment Manual Distributed
- Rigor and Relevance document distributed
- Update graduation requirements information collected on Fall Beds
- Department involvement in Katrina disaster relief efforts

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

The minutes of the August 11-12, 2005 State Board of Education meeting were approved.

Rules

Chapter 96, "Local Option Sales and Services Tax for School Infrastructure" rules were approved for Notice of Intended Action.

Chapter 12, "General Accreditation Standards" were approved for Notice of Intended Action.

Appeals

Administrative Law Judge, Carol Greta, reviewed the appeal decision <u>In re Closing of Roosevelt and Northwood Elementary Buildings</u>. She indicated the Appellants were the parents of students who attended the closed elementary buildings in the district. It was felt that although Appellants were unhappy with the decision to close the elementary buildings, the local board had substantially complied with the rules and regulations. It was also found that the board members and the public fully understood that a decision to approve the budget would result in the closure of the elementary schools.

Greta also stated that based on Chapter 19 rules, the State Board review was very circumscribed. The Board can only review the process; it cannot reconsider the substantive decision itself.

Motion: It was moved by Wayne Kobberdahl and seconded by Sally Frudden that the decision of the Board of Directors of the Ames Community School District be affirmed.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Carol Greta, Administrative Law Judge, reviewed the appeal decision *In re Dismissal from National Honor Society*. She indicated the Appellant was seeking reversal of the decision of the Jefferson-Scranton Community School District Board of Directors made on May 18, 2005. The Appellant had participated in a school-sponsored trip of the high school's band to Minnesota during which she and other students consumed alcohol. She did not self-report her violation and as a result of an investigation, the Appellant received a short-term suspension from both curricular and extracurricular activities (not appealed) and was dismissed from the National Honor Society, which is the subject of this appeal.

The Appellant argued the dismissal was an excessive penalty for a first-time offender. The District decision-makers determined that dismissal was the most appropriate punishment for this case.

Motion: Sister Jude Fitzpatrick moved that the decision of the Board of Directors of the Jefferson-Scranton Community School District, made on May 18, 2005, be affirmed. The motion was seconded by Sally Frudden.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Carol Greta, Administrative Law Judge, outlined the decision <u>In re Transportation</u> <u>Services</u>. She identified the parent of a student with a disability that receives transportation services between home and school and was appealing the decision by the local board to sell the student transportation fleet to a private company. Greta said that all statutory requirements had been met by the district and there was no proof of inappropriate action by the local board in signing the agreement.

Motion: Charlie Edwards moved that the decision of the Board of Directors of the Ankeny Community School District made on April 25, 2005, be affirmed. The motion was seconded by Wayne Kobberdahl.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

President Gene Vincent said that the Board would receive public comment for athletic eligibility. The following individuals spoke to the athletic eligibility agenda item: Tom Glenn – self (Des Moines), Linda Nelson – Iowa State Education Association, Jonathan Narcisse – State of Iowa Black Initiative, Dick Vande Kieft – Cedar Falls Community School District, Michael Helle – self (Knoxville), Chris Green – community activist (Des Moines), Charla Schmid – Red Oak Community School Board and Legislative Resolutions Committee for Iowa School Board Association, and Jon Ericson – self (Des Moines).

Athletic Eligibility

President Vincent asked Carol Greta, legal counsel, to review the background of this agenda item. Greta responded by highlighting the tentative timeline for lowa Administrative Code rule changes. She also provided the current rule for review and a document showing the legal authority of the State Board of Education.

Charlie Edwards provided the following recommendation for the State Board on athletic eligibility:

It is recommended that the Board direct agency staff to initiate the formal rulemaking process to amend Rule 36.15(2) consistent with incorporation of the following key points:

- 1. The scholarship rule be upgraded from the present "pass 20 semester hours' credit" (the equivalent of 4 courses) to "pass all" courses.
- 2. That students continue to have to take the equivalent of a minimum of 20 semester hours' credit to be eligible, unless their member school requires more.
- 3. That students must be making adequate progress toward graduation requirements as determined by the local board.
- 4. Schools shall continue to provide appropriate interventions to their students who fail or who are at risk to fail.
- 5. Continue to review school district activity through the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) on an annual basis and report back to the Board.

Motion: Charles Edwards offered the above statement as a motion. Mary Jean Montgomery seconded the motion.

Tara Richards explained her handout which included collected responses from a crosscut of students in the state regarding athletic eligibility.

Greg McClain indicated the *Waterloo Courier* had conducted an online poll of their readers on the proposed change to the athletic eligibility rules. He reported this unscientific poll favored raising the state eligibility standards for high school athletes. McClain also reported on the results of his participation in a NASBE Study Group on Athletic Eligibility.

Charlie called the motion to question.

Vote: A roll call vote Aye: Edwards, Fitzpatrick, McClain, Montgomery and Kobberdahl. Nay: Hussey, Frudden, and Vincent. The motion passed.

Charles Edwards indicated his appreciation to the persons involved in the process of this recommendation.

Mary Jean Montgomery said she appreciated the public comment presented on this item.

Wayne Kobberdahl indicated he had visited some school districts and discussed athletic eligibility. He felt they were appreciative of state board members' interest to take the time to seek information from them.

Greg McClain reported he was somewhat satisfied with the decision of "passing all" but felt that there was still a great deal to be accomplished.

Principal Evaluation Standards and Criteria

Troyce Fisher, Project Director, State Action for Educational Leadership Partnership (SAELP II) reviewed the standards and criteria for this project.

She stated the initiative had begun with the State Board establishing a priority of improving educational leadership. The State Board emphasis had resulted in the adoption of the Iowa Standards for School Leaders, a change in principal licensing requirements, and rule changes for State Board approval of administrator preparation programs. Various school leadership efforts were supported by receiving SAELP grants funded by the Wallace Foundation. The second round of grant funding for a leadership policy and practices initiative, was used to build on the Iowa Standards for School Leaders as evaluation standards and criteria for principals. Fisher noted the standards and criteria were intended to parallel the Iowa Teaching Standards.

The information provided reflected recent provisions of the criteria to be included under each of the lowa Standards for School Leaders. A large group of principals and superintendents that had worked with Dr. Tim Waters from the mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning (MCREL) were responsible for these revisions. MCREL staff and Dr. Waters had examined research detailing the 21 leadership behaviors in principals that would have the most powerful positive effects on student achievement. Troyce Fisher indicated these 21 leadership behaviors were used to develop the criteria under each of the lowa standards.

Ms. Fisher stated the next steps in this process would include implementation of the standards and criteria as well as development of supports that could be provided to superintendents as they evaluate principals.

State Board members discussed the progress of the school leadership initiative and priority and endorsed the Principal Evaluation Standards and Criteria that were presented.

Area Education Agency 8 Accreditation

Sharon Hawthorne, Special Education Consultant and Tom Cooley, School Improvement Consultant presented the Area Education Agency (AEA) 8 accreditation agenda item.

Ms. Hawthorne stated that Chapter 273.9 of the Code of Iowa provided authority for the State Board of Education to set standards and procedures for the accreditation of AEAs. She reviewed the corrective actions implemented by AEA 8 as a result of conditional accreditation that had been granted in September 2004. The following actions are listed below:

- 1. Submitted a Corrective Action Plan for Site Visit Concerns to the DE on December 1, 2004.
- 2. A letter outlining concerns with the Corrective Action Plan was sent to the agency on January 15, 2005 and a teleconference was held to review issues identified regarding the proposed corrective actions.
- 3. Submitted a Revised Corrective Action Plan for Site Visit Concerns to the DE on February 13, 2005.
- 4. Jeff Berger met at AEA 8 on February 18, 2005 to review the revised plan and approval of the plan was granted by the Department.
- 5. Kay Forsythe met with Sharon Hawthorne and Tom Cooley at AEA 8 on May 20, 2005 to share progress with the corrective action plan.
- 6. Sharon Hawthorne and Tom Cooley visited the agency's Cylinder office on August 22, 2005 to review evidence regarding implementation of the corrective action plan.

Cooley and Hawthorne reviewed the summary of findings and recommended AEA 8 for full accreditation.

Motion: It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Mary Jean Montgomery that the State Board grant approval to Area Education Agency 8 for full accreditation.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Area Education Agencies 4, 9 and 11

Sharon Hawthorne, Special Education Consultant and Tom Cooley, School Improvement Consultant presented this Area Education Agency (AEA) accreditation agenda item.

It was noted the main purpose of the accreditation visit was to help AEAs improve the quality and focus of their services, which will in turn assist schools and school districts to improve learning for students. Iowa's AEAs are a critical part of the support structure for schools. Maintaining high standards and quality in programs and services is a top priority.

Area Education Agencies 4, 9, and 11 received an on-site visit during the spring/summer of 2005. Ms. Hawthorne and Mr. Cooley noted the strengths identified in each AEA as well as the suggested areas of improvement. Area Education Agencies 4, 9 and 11 were recommended for accreditation.

Motion: It was moved by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick and seconded by Charlie Edwards to approve Area Education Agencies 4, 9 and 11 for accreditation.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Practitioner Preparation Program – University of Iowa

Arlie Willems, Administrative Consultant, Practitioner Preparation reviewed site visit findings. The team examined six general areas: Governance and Resources, Diversity, Faculty Performance and Development, Clinical Practice, Assessment of Candidate Knowledge and Assessment of the Unit. Willems identified the areas of strength and noted areas of concern found in the review.

Board members expressed concern that the content specific courses did not appear to be based on national standards. The faculty shortage was also discussed. After a discussion about the content courses and faculty shortages, it was felt that additional information needed to be provided regarding improvement in this area before approval could be granted.

Motion: It was moved by Mary Jean Montgomery and seconded by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick that the practitioner preparation program be tabled. The approval would be brought back at a later date with updated material from the University of lowa to address the practitioner preparation program concerns.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Master of Education Degree – Upper Iowa University

Administrative Consultant, Arlie Willems, indicated a team had reviewed the application for the Master of Education program submitted by Upper Iowa University.

Willems outlined the strengths. She also identified the areas that would require continued attention during the program implementation. The team commended Upper lowa University for providing opportunities for continued professional growth to practicing teachers. The Master of Education program was recommended for approval.

Motion: Sally Frudden moved and Rosie Hussey seconded that the Upper Iowa University Master of Education program be approved through the next scheduled full accreditation visit.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Iowa Public Charter Schools: Approval for Charter Status

Pam Pfitzenmaier, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary & Secondary Education reported that the Northwest Iowa High School Charter School would be a school within the Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn (HMS) Community School District. The charter would be open to all junior and senior high school students. The Charter involved a partnership between North Iowa Community College and Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn High School. The partnership would allow for expanded student opportunities to enroll in dual credit courses. Pfitzenmaier indicated that the hope of the charter was to provide a wider range of rigorous courses for students in the area. The charter had been unanimously approved by the HMS Board of Education and the teachers in March of 2005. The parents granted approval in February 2005. The proposed Northwest Iowa Charter High School was recommended for approval.

Motion: It was moved by Mary Jean Montgomery that the charter school application for Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn Community School District (Northwest lowa Charter High School) be approved. Wayne Kobberdahl seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Policy Development/Leadership Agenda and Master Calendar

Gail Sullivan, Chief of Staff, commented that at the State Board Retreat in June, Board members had identified priorities for their Policy Development/Leadership Agenda for 2005-06. She described the identified priorities and a proposal for addressing them. The priorities the Board had identified were 1) Early Childhood Education - providing voluntary access to quality preschools for all four-year old children; 2) High School Reinvention / Transition – increasing the rigor, relevance and relationships within Iowa's High Schools; 3) Providing adequate funding to support Department and State Board responsibilities and activities.

Gail Sullivan described the plan for addressing the priorities. The Master Calendar had been developed to incorporate the priorities into State Board meeting agendas.

Board members discussed the proposed plan for the leadership agenda and made suggested changes.

Greg McClain had a concern about the availability of GPA data. Director Jeffrey explained that this data was not available in a useful context. Lee Tack provided information in response to ITED and ACT correlation of data.

Gene Vincent appointed Mary Jean Montgomery and Tara Richards to serve on the Model Core Curriculum Project Lead Team.

Ambassador for Education Report

Ernest Schiller, 2004 Teacher of the Year, reported to the Board on his year as Ambassador for Education.

He summarized his major activities, including visits to schools area education agencies and community colleges, conference and workshop presentations, and appearances before community organizations. Schiller identified several high points of his year to be 1) guest of President and First Lady Bush for the National Teacher of the Year Recognition; 2) International Space Camp with all of the State Teachers of the Year and 70 International teachers; and 3) recognition from family, fellow teachers, the local community and statewide leaders.

Mr. Schiller expressed concern about the lack of adequate supplies, insufficient working conditions, and overloaded classes. He also encouraged continued support for the lowa Teacher of the Year program. He stated his appreciation for the wonderful opportunity to serve as Ambassador for Education and the many opportunities it had afforded him.

Offers for FY 07

Dr. Lee Tack, Administrator and Roger Stirler, Chief of the Division of Financial and Information Services were present for this agenda item.

Lee Tack stated that all state agencies were required by lowa Code to submit to the Department of Management and Governor's Office an appropriation request for the following fiscal year by October 1. In 2004 a new approach to budget requests, "Purchasing Results" was implemented. This approach required departments to develop "offers" which are then presented to "buying" teams.

Tack and Stirler reviewed the following offers for FY07:

- Educator Quality
- Universal Access to Prekindergarten
- High School Reform
- State Aid to School Districts and Area Education Agencies
- Administration of the Department of Education
- Iowa Communications Network Part III Leases and Maintenance
- lowa Jobs for America's Graduates (I-JAG)
- USDA Child Nutrition Programs (Required Match for Federal Funds)
- State Aid for Children in Nonpublic Schools
- Regional Intermediary System to Connect Students to the Workplace
- Community College State General Aid
- Vocational Education Secondary Federal Match

State Board members discussed the new budgeting process. Tack indicated the offers were in draft status and a follow-up report would come to the Board.

Board Reports

Greg McClain - No report

Rosie Hussey reported she had attended the Area Education Agency 267 meeting. The agenda led to discussions regarding rigor and relevance and athletic eligibility rules.

Sally Frudden - No report

<u>Tara Richards</u> – No report

<u>Sister Jude Fitzpatrick</u> indicated she had attended the Regents' lowa Braille and Sight Saving Task Force meeting .

<u>Mary Jean Montgomery</u> said she had attended 3 lowa Public Television meetings. Discussions included designing the FY 07 budget request offers and activities concerning school readiness and educating tomorrow's students for a "flat world". Other discussions included the conversion progress to digital television for all IPTV towers.

Montgomery also reported she had received an invitation to the Wingspread Conference in Racine, Wisconsin. It was a three-day conference entitled "Preparing, Retaining and Supporting a High Quality Teacher Workforce: A National Conversation with Key Stakeholders."

Gene Vincent reported on the rewards of his visit to a second grade classroom.

President Gene Vincent adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

State Board Work Session

Gail Sullivan, Chief of Staff and Jeff Berger, Legislative Liaison were present to conduct the work session. The work session focused on the following two issues:

- The State Board's Legislative Agenda for 2006
- Continued work on the State Board's Operating Guidelines

Gene E. Vincent

President

Judy A. Jeffrey, Director
and Executive Officer